

THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Volume 4
Number 2

Summer/Fall
1992



1992

CONVENTION SUMMARY



Exterior of castle.

Castle fireplace mantel with coat of arms.



Jack Judson address the convention group.

INSIDE

- REPORT ON 1992 CONVENTION
- FROM AMATEUR TO PROFESSIONAL
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

All articles submitted to the *Magic Lantern Gazette* are subject to editing. In some cases severe.

Please try to hold down the length of articles. Three hundred to 400 words is about right. Some writers tend to drown their readers, losing them after a paragraph or two (turn them off).

We like pictures as does the readership. Tell us about the picture.

We also like letters to the editors. If you must criticize, that's fine, but we like the other kind too. We'll accept signed or unsigned, but the signed ones will be published first.

Shows - If you have put on any shows let us know about it. Give us the details: who, what, where, when, why, how, etc.

How about letting us know about any unusual finds? We are always interested in hearing of your good luck!

Dues are due!! Please send your dues to Bob Hall, treasurer, at 3321 114th St. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Dues at present are \$20.00 per year for a regular membership. See by-laws for other dues information.

Don't forget that members are entitled to an occasional non com-

mercial, free, want/sale ad. Keep it under 25 words. Do not include name, phone number or address in count. Members find want ads interesting—keeps you abreast of the market.

About the *Gazette*? The job has been taken over by the N.W. group and the task assignments are as follows: 1) Joe Koch and Jack Judson, co-editors; 2) Sue Hall, word processing; 3) Larry Cederblom, graphics, printing and mailing labels; ; 4) Joe and Alice Koch, proofing; 5) Ralph and Judy Shape, mailing; and 6) Joe Koch, utility man, gopher and coordinator.

Please direct all material for the *Gazette* to Joe Koch, 2902 28th St. SE, Auburn, WA 98002-7901. Phone (206) 833-7784. I will keep Jack Judson informed. If you want to complain to Jack his phone number is (512) 824-9995.

It is hoped that we will shortly publish a new membership book. Send in your interests for inclusion under your name ASAP.

The Bishops accompanied by their daughter at this writing time, have just returned from White Horse, Yukon Territory, Canada, where they put on some Magic Lantern shows as they did last year.

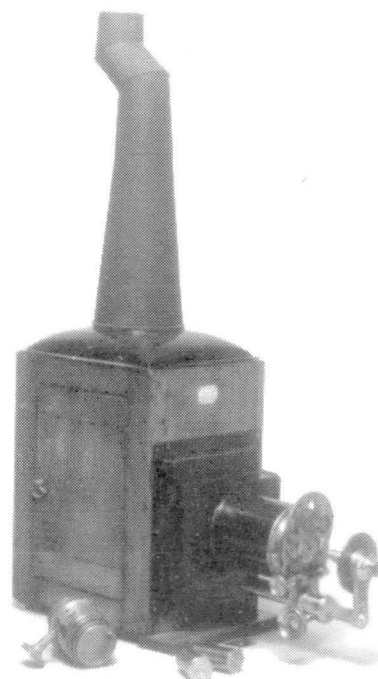
We hear by the grapevine that

Dick Balzer, Terry and Debbie Borton, Jack Judson, Ralph and Judy Shape and Homer and Betty Peabody will be attending the Magic Lantern convention in London.

We would appreciate it if one or more of the above would submit a report on the convention and the auction.

Please include a list of prices realized and on what items.

Bon Voyage!!



The Gazette

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produced

by the

Magic Lantern

Society of the United

States and Canada.



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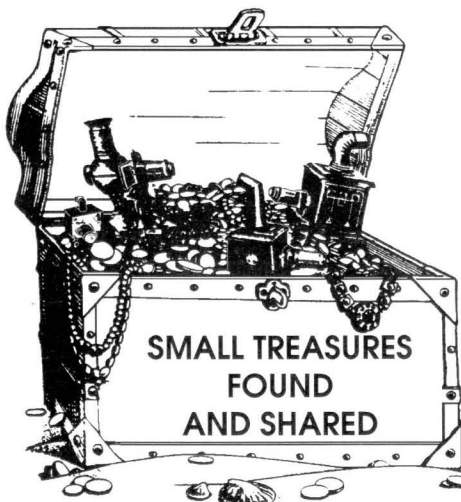
Membership

One Years Dues

Regular member \$20

Institutional Member \$25

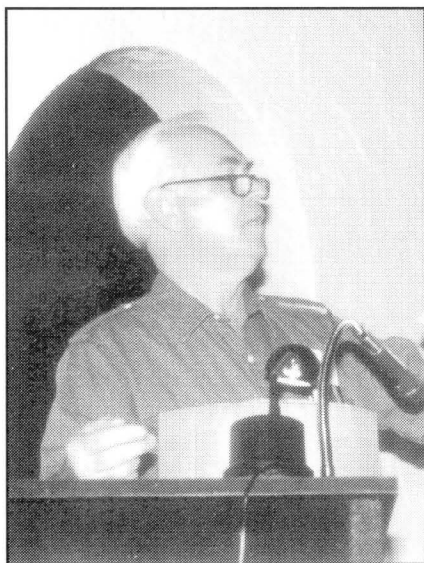
Commercial Member \$25



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1992 is one banner year for the Society. We had a great convention, and for me to realize a dream, to create a legitimate museum for the Magic Lantern, and my collection.

At the convention, elections were held based on not only those present,



Jack Judson

but mailed in ballots. The results were that myself, Larry Cederblom, and Bob Hall were unanimously reelected for the next two years. Larry Cederblom has had to relinquish being editor of the *Gazette* due to changing personal commitments.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge with great appreciation and respect for the terrific job Larry did in producing a wonderful Society publication. It is a tough job and not enough people contribute articles.

After a round of discussion, it was decided by the attendees at the convention that we would accept the Borton's kind offer to host the next convention in 1994 in the northeast, so stay tuned for more details or plans. Doc Peabody and his ever charming spouse offered to host the one after that in San Diego.

In general discussion, the receipt of a letter from member Mike Smith in Britain was mentioned and pro'd and conn'd about the need or possibility for an International Society. Some felt we had our own identity, and would gain nothing by going with Mike's idea in the way he presents it, but some did feel an International Society if properly structured with adequate representation could be a good thing. Some were outright opposed, but we read the letter to the attendees, and agreed to reprint it in the next *Gazette*, and request that all members read it, and write a note/letter to me expressing whether you would be for or against his proposition. Please do so that the feelings of the society will be known to me. I have already received a couple, but would like to hear from everyone who would care to comment (see page four).

This subject was briefly mentioned at the Boston convention by Dick Balzer, and we almost had to arrange police protection for him.

I would really like to again encourage folks who live in the same part of the country to get together in their area, much like the group in the Seattle area.

I was really glad that Terry Borton has seen fit to embark on a new career, that of a professional Magic Lanternist in the U.S. The first in many a year here in the colonies, and we all wish him great success. I expect he will give us progress reports.

LOST AND FOUND AT THE CONVENTION

One small black plastic Canon camera case.

One very rare but maybe not so collectible, brand new, in original packing, Banana Slicer. (Does not seem to go with any known lantern.)

Special thanks to Don and Micahella Curran of California, for the very generous \$100.00 gift to the Society which was sent even though they could not make it due to a wedding. Exceptional, and very much appreciated by all at the convention.

And to everyone who came to the Magic Lantern Castle for pitching in and helping the local staff to pull it off more easily. Dorothy Smith is one fine registrar, Bob Bishop is one fine tale spinner, The Bortons, Halls, Larry Rakow are noteworthy for auction help and on and on, and like any such listing someone will likely not be mentioned, but it's just an honest oversight. A great resounding round of applause for all those who made presentations, or gave shows.

Superlatives sometimes fail to describe someone's actions, so think of the most glowing you can for the Bergh Sister's creation of the words, and Max Morath for playing singing and recording the wonderful song for the Magic Lantern Convention at the Castle in San Antonio!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And very special thanks to Elgin Smith for his many pictures to share with everyone.



PROPOSAL TO THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF U.S. AND CANADA

"The Society approaches the Magic Lantern Society with a view to The Magic Lantern Society taking over the membership and assets of MLS of U.S. and Canada."

The rationale behind this proposal is as follows:

- the international reputation and standing of this field of interest will increase with a unified voice
- an enhanced Society membership and financial base on which to build for the future
- a greater pool of knowledge from which should flow an increased volume and enhanced quality of publications
- only one administrative/financial centre
- elimination of membership duplication

Other factors influencing this proposal:

- The Magic Lantern Society of U.S. and Canada is having difficulty in expanding its membership base whilst the Magic Lantern Society has a history of continual growth. The Magic Lantern Society has approximately three times the number of members.
- The concentration of members of the Magic Lantern Society in and around London makes England the logical base for the Magic Lantern Society. Regular Committee Meetings are essential to guide and plan the Society's activities and London is the only practicable venue.
- One Society would not prevent meetings of local members anywhere in the world and through country correspondents providing input to activities the Society would become international in the fullest sense.

L.M.H. Smith
Member of The Magic Lantern Society of U.S. and Canada

REPORT ON CONVENTION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JUNE 19, 20, 21, 1992

MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE U.S.A. AND CANADA



L to R, front row Russell Serrienne, Larry Cederblom, Ralph Shape, Floyd Hagedorn, Larry Rakow, Jack Judson, Phoebe Judson, John Gallaro, Bob Skell, Judy Shape, Betty Peabody, Debbie Borton, Sue Hall, Back row Ira Franklin, Carol Skell, Ernie Gehr, Blanche Owens, Terry Borton, Bob Hall, Barbara Zucker, Joe Koch, Alice Koch, Bob Bishop, Carm Bishop, Pat Bergh, Nancy Bergh, Margaret Bergh, Dorothy Smith, Bob Askren, Homer Peabody, Elgin Smith

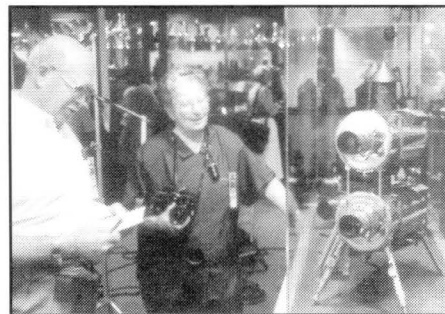
BY JOE KOCH

THE MOTEL

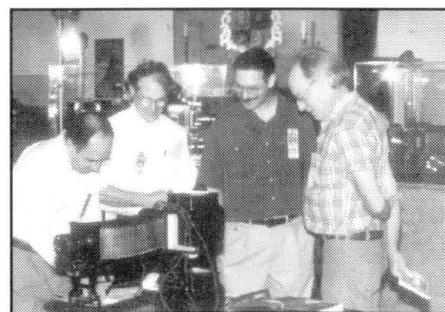
The motel was very good with nice rooms and polite services by all. The food and the attention from waiters and waitresses was outstanding.

Arriving at the airport we only had to wait for ten minutes for our ride to the Seven Oak's Hotel. The driver of the van described the layout of the city and he gave us highlights of local history. We had instant rapport because he was an ex-coast Guardsman and I am a retired Navy man.

The place of our convention meeting was a short distance across the highway, 600 feet or so. The Magic Lantern Castle was where the activities took place.



Bob Askren and Blanche Owens examine lantern.



L to R, Ernie Gehr, Terry Borton, Larry Rakow and Bob Skell

BANQUET

The barge banquet was very interesting but hot and touristy with mobs of people. Those who liked Mexican food said it was very good.

THE CASTLE

We met at the Castle for all our Magic Lantern activities. It was a multipurpose building in that it is a museum of the Magic Lantern, a projection room, eating facility, sales and auction room. At times it was at the point of being overcrowded in my opinion. There were 40 people in attendance including members and guests.

The collections, which our President Jack Judson has accumulated are extensive and magnificent. It is probably the largest collection in the world, in one location. I'm sure that most of us were awestruck. Phoebe Judson arranged all the on-site food and prepared much of it herself. Some members helped with serving, etc. Both Jack and Phoebe hosted the affair in their gracious southern manner.



L to R Ruth Frye, Joe Koch, Alice Koch, Larry Rakow, Blanche Owens

THE PROGRAMS

Larry Rakow, the gentleman, raconteur, showman, rapier wit, put on his usual Professor Optix program with the flair it has always had. Larry graciously deleted part of his show so it would not conflict with Terry (John) Borton's using some of the same slides. Alice and I have known Larry since the Rochester, New York Convention in 1981. We will hear more about Larry in the Auction Critique.

TERRY AND DEBBIE BORTON

Alice and I have seen the Bortons at work at least four times or more and each show has been different. They have the touch of professional showmen. Around our house, we refer to Terry as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. This gentle, quiet, reserved gentleman gets before the crowd and turns into a Long John Silver, a DownEaster, a Yankee sailing captain, or a Dickensian character in dress and speech.

His "bit" spoken in French jazzing up the French side of the audience during the battle of Alexandria (Battle of the Nile) between the British Vanguard and the French Guerrier was absolutely hilarious. Terry does the talking (acting) and Debbie works the lantern. Well done Terry and Debbie. (Debbie was also in costume.)

BOB BISHOP

The "Old Projectionist" gave a talk on the D'Jinn from the Middle Sea. Bob was up to his usual standard and the applause was long and loud from those that were still awake.

BARBARA FLEISCHMAN ZUCKER

Barbara, our third speaker, a Ph.D., gave a paper on the "View of Slide Activity in St. Louis." She is a new member to the Magic Lantern Society and a very intelligent, super charged individual. She put an enormous amount of research and time into the paper and it was obvious that she loves her work. She started with her interest in photo history in educa-



Debbie and Terry during their performance



Terry Borton performs



L to R Bnche Owens, Margaret Bergh and Pat Bergh

tion, which led to the lantern slide. She saw her first show in Frankfurt, Germany in 1981, given by Mike Simkin (a British member) who many of us know. When her talk was completed there was not much we did not know about lantern slides in the St. Louis school system and those few slides that have survived and the persons involved.

Just one comment, the show could be cut down to about one-third the time.

JACK JUDSON

'Put Some Light on the Subject'

Most of us "lantern types" have read of the various types of illumination used in lantern slide projection, but few of us have seen the actual equipment. Jack was able to show it all, from the simple wick in a pool of oil to 'Lime Light.' He, of course, did not light off all the equipment but the 'Piece of Resistance' was the lighting of the Lime Light using a flame of

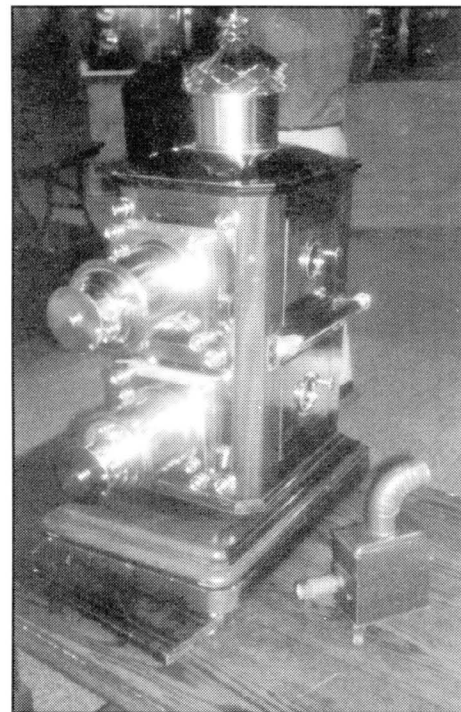
acetylene projected against a lime. We were hit by a flash and continuing bright white light of a brilliance we have never seen before. Jack's program was a delight for us lanternists. Good job, Jack.

THE BERGH SISTERS

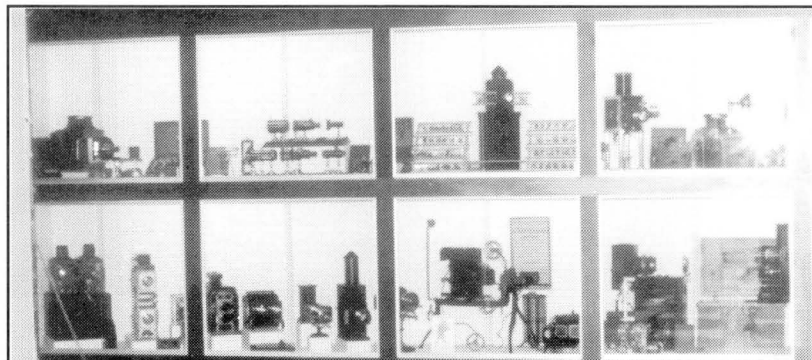
Nancy and Margaret (with moral support from Mom, Pat). Alice and I first met the Bergh sisters in Rochester, New York, in 1981, with their mother, Pat. It was then we found out that they were the experts on song slides along with John Ripley and Max Morath, whom most of you have seen on television from time to time (Max is a singer and entertainer). Their show is a delight with Nancy doing the talking and Margaret operating the equipment. They give a bit of history of the song slides, the makers, the studios which made them and especially Van Altena and Scott. They have been written up in the *Smithsonian Magazine* and other media. For simplification and ease of transport, they have converted their

show to 35 mm slides which leads to a horror story at the first British Convention. The Brits promised to have all projection equipment available for use and lo and behold, their equipment did not handle the 35 mm format. They spent about all night re-mounting to the British format and had to do it all over again when they got home. If you have not seen the Berghs in action, you have missed a good show.

Sad to say that Nancy and Margaret lost their dad in April and Pat, her husband. Our sympathies.



Bi-Unial and toy lantern



Lantern display



Lantern with French hand painted slides

REPRODUCTION OF SLIDES

Larry Cederblom gave a very fine lecture on the reproduction of lantern slides using the overhead transparency material made in a copier. The copiers recommended are the Canon Color Laser Copier and the other by Xerox. He gave many of the technical details of how to do all this, and supplied a handout with more detailed information. Larry brought samples of his work to show and to sell which he does through his firm:

Lamphouse Productions
 1846 S. 26th Pl.
 Kent, WA 98032
 U.S.A.

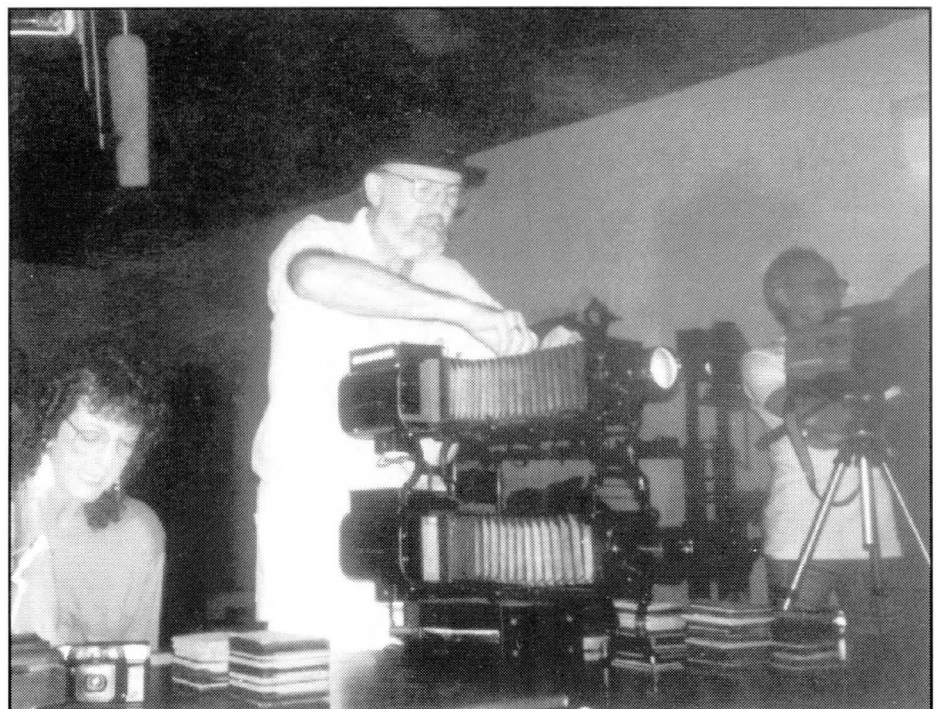
Write to him for more information. (Larry has been our editor of the newsletter for about three years. He is also vice president.)

WHAT'S AT THE MOVIES OR WHAT'S NEXT WEEK

Sue and Bob Hall put on their virgin performance using a small part of their coming attraction slides. They did very well. Their performance was preceded by a talk given by both on how they got interested in the lantern and how they connected with the U.S. Society via the British Society (a funny story).

They used lantern slides from the silents to the talkies, giving a bit of history on the movie and the actors and the era. They did not mention that for sometime, they have been collecting sheet music published at the time for particular movies. Maybe we can have a program on that in Connecticut (1994).

One comment on their program, the background music overpowered Sue's narration about twenty percent of the time. Bob and Sue work well together and do a good job for the Society. Bob is secretary/treasurer.



Bob and Sue Hall at work with their show

THE GRASSHOPPER'S WEDDING

Bob Askren, by chance spotted an article on the Grasshopper wedding in 1874. From articles in the newspaper of that period, there was a terrible locust plague. Someone made light of it and Bob started his search for the slide, pictures or anything that would lead him to the story. His search spanned the nation seeking any knowledge of the picture or slide. He accomplished the job and we got to see the results of it in his slide presentation. Yes, these were Kansas grasshoppers all dressed up in wedding costumes. Do it again, Bob.

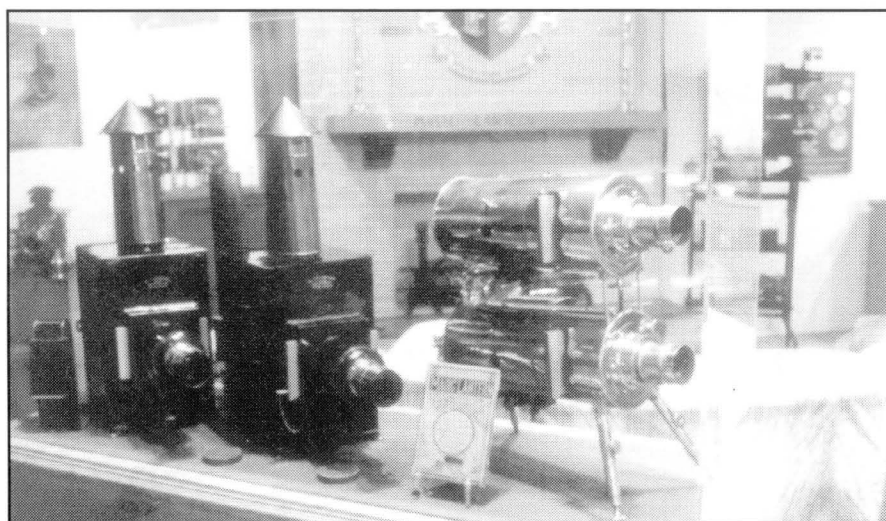
THE AUCTION

The highlight of any Magic Lantern Convention seems to be the auction . . . the auction . . . the auction! There was a good distribution of sale items from ephemera to one professional lantern. There were 118 items in all. Some failed to reach their reserve but most sold at prices that astonished the writer. In Rochester, New York, Dick Balzer had single slippers that would not sell for \$10.00 (1981).

The auction team consisted of Larry Rakow doing the oral work, Debbie Borton as the mule (hauling material back and forth) and Terry Borton doing the paper work. They worked together like a well oiled machine. Larry R., the star of the auction brought his showmanship, wry wit and sales ability to the fore, which has been his style since the beginning (1981). Larry has served as auctioneer of the past five conventions, usually with Dick Balzer (Dick could not attend this convention). Auctions, of course, are where a willing seller and willing buyer come together—a true marketplace. The prices paid serve as a benchmark for future sellers who attend, and those who did not. That is why it is very important to publish prices realized in the National Newsletter.



L to R - Jack Judson, explains lighting device to Russell Serianne and Ralph Shape



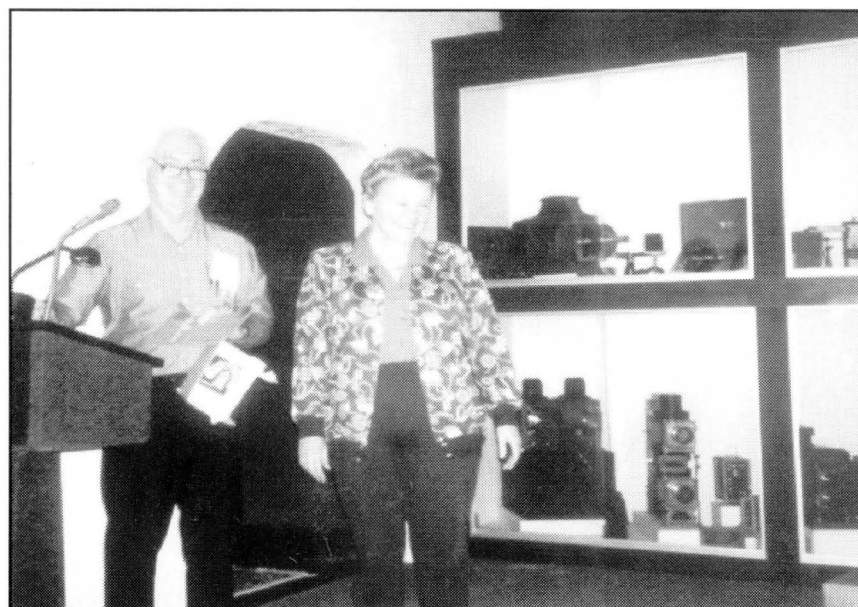
Lantern display



Lantern display



Debbie Borton ready for show



Jack and Phoebe Judson take their bows

GENERAL REMARKS

A) Alice and I are the only two members of the Society who have attended all the Magic Lantern Conventions. Five in the U.S.A. and three in Great Britain. Does this make us experts? I would think not, but I have written something for and about each convention for the newsletter. We will miss the British Convention in April 1993.

B) As I stated before, Jack and Phoebe Judson were gracious hosts and welcomed us to San Antonio as if we were members of their family and so we are, a family of 'magic lantern aficionados—a breed apart from common folk!

C) John Gallaro and his crew (TV producer, Canadian TV, Toronto), did a great job with their equipment, creating a minimum of disruption while doing their work; interviewing, photographing the lovely exhibits, etc. John had an unwelcome guest in his room at the hotel . . . 'a snake.' What kind? Who knows? We do know he did not take it back to Canada. John is trying to put together a Magic Lantern documentary.

It was a great convention and enjoyed by all. The gamut of Lantern Shows gave us a variety the likes of which many of us do not get to see. A huzzah to all who helped with the organizing and programming.





1992 SAN ANTONIO AUCTION REPORT

BY LARRY RAKOW

Of all the changes during the course of our 22 year-old marriage, the one thing my wife finds most astonishing is that I've turned into a sports fanatic. Broadcast a good baseball game or football match and I'll drop nearly anything and watch TV till I'm glassy-eyed. The reason is simple. After years of viewing situation comedies and formula dramas, nearly all TV shows become routine; I can map out the entire plot of virtually any show within the first five minutes. But a sporting event offers limitless possibilities and the old cliché holds true; on any given day, any team can beat any other team. I admire uncertainty and love a good auction for the same reason I love sports; nothing is really set in stone until the final sounds or hammer falls.

In the past, I've attended antique auctions to indulge my mania for lantern slides and children's books. More recently, I've held auctions to disperse parts of my own magic lantern collection. But the most fun I've ever had at any auction has come during the conventions of the Magic Lantern Society of the U.S. and Canada. There, Dick Balzer and I have headed auctions that traditionally close the conventions. During the San Antonio Convention, Dick was unable to serve as co-auctioneer as he had business in Alaska (watch for him this coming season in the role of a slightly befuddled, obnoxious labor negotiator from the East on *Northern Exposure*); stepping ably into his shoes were Terry and Debbie Borton. During the course of slightly more than two hours, the three of us were able to sell more than 115 lots of lantern-related materials to a field of 20 active bidders.

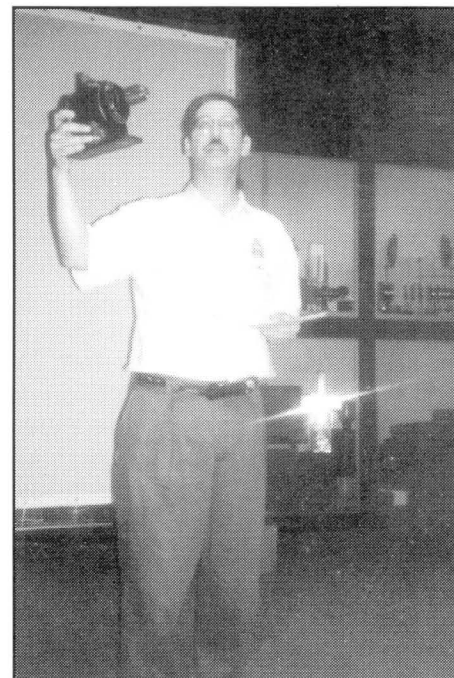
Highlights abounded: a stereo card of a girl holding lantern slides; a collection of double-sided zoetrope strips; complete sets of Beale song and story slides including *Swanee River*, *Old Kentucky Home*, and *How Jones Became a Mason*; magnificent single and double slip slides; a boxed toy lantern complete with posters, tickets, and slides; and rare books and ephemera on the lantern. As with any auction, lowlights snuck in as well: lots that failed to meet minimums; abused slides and lanterns; routine black and white travelogue slides; and yet another example of the incredible "Comicscope," the world's only cardboard magic lantern! Regardless of their intrinsic worth, nearly every lot found a home and when the dust had cleared, the Society had sold nearly \$4,230.00 worth of materials and made more than \$400.00 for itself in so doing. As usual, it proved an exciting and profitable afternoon for all involved. A list of lots and prices realized follows as a memento for those who were there and a spur for other members to attend the next convention.

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	WINNING BID
1.	EKC Velox Water Color Set for Lantern Slides	16.00
2.	<i>American Heritage</i> Magazine, June 1959	7.00
3.	Set of Keystone readings Cards for 600 set	24.00
4.	<i>Photo-Miniature</i> Magazine, "Coloring Lantern Slides"	40.00
5.	Starter Beale Set 1, 11 B&W and Color Slides	60.00
6.	Opaque Projector	10.00
7.	Wooden Slide Box	8.00
8.	Boxed Slide Set, "Angus and the Ducks"	5.00
9.	Single Slip Slide, "Man Chopping Foot"	40.00
10.	Single Slip Slide, "Good Luck Horseshoe"	35.00
11.	(5) Sets of Flip Books, One or All	7.50 each
12.	Soule's Art Catalog	10.00
13.	(8) Wooden Frames for 3-1/4 x 4" Slides	40.00
14.	(4) Oversized Photographic Slides	5.00
15.	Box of Kodak Cover Glass	10.00
16.	Horizontal Cylindrical Toy Lantern	25.00
17.	EP Toy Lantern	20.00
18.	Abrams Art Book, "Alice in Wonderland, Illustrated with Lantern Slides	18.00
19.	Starter Set II, 13 B&W and Color Slides	80.00
20.	(2) EP Empty Magic Lantern Slide Boxes	12.00
21.	"John Gilpin" Boxed Set of Long Slides	Withdrawn
22.	(8) Misc. Religious Readings and Keystone Blotter	20.00
23.	Griffith & Griffith Stereo Card of Little Girl Holding Lantern Slides	55.00
24.	(5) Misc. Wood Slides	12.00
25.	Book, "Star Spangled Beale"	45.00
26.	Complete Boxed Set of Colored Beale Slides, "The Other Wise Men"	Withdrawn
27.	Boxed Red EP Toy Lantern with Slides	285.00
28.	(23) Educational Slides, "23 Animals"	24.00
29.	McIntosh Wooden Stereopticon Burner Box	18.00
30.	(4) 1986 London Magic Lantern Society Plastic Tote Bags	4.00 each
31.	(8) Photographic B&W Slides	12.00
32.	(8) Color Holy Land Slides	2.00
33.	(7) B&W Slides of Great Britain, Mediterranean, and S. Pacific	4.00

continued page 12

Auction Report continued

34.	(8) B&W Slides of Jerusalem & Misc.	4.00
35.	(9) Misc. B&W Slides	5.00
36.	(9) Misc. B&W Slides	6.00
37.	Decorative Window Piece, Positive Trans. of Niagara Falls	25.00
38.	Single Slip Slide, "Man and donkey"	75.00
39.	Single Slip Slide, "Bottled Porter"	50.00
40.	Double Slip Slide, "Boy Jumping Post"	85.00
41.	(2) Sets of 3 Shire Books plus Keystone Blotter	35.00 each
42.	12 Misc. Hand-Painted Long Slides in Box	Withdrawn
43.	Boxed Educational Set, "Cinder," 12 slides	7.00
44.	Boxed Educational Set, "Little Red Hen," 18 slides	40.00
45.	Boxed Educational Set, "Summer Day," 26 slides	20.00
46.	Boxed Educational Set, "Safe All Day With the Happies," 44 slides	50.00
47.	Enlarging Lantern plus Carrier	Withdrawn
48.	Early Film Strip for Lantern/Film Projector	14.00
49.	EP Toy Lantern w/o Burner	25.00
50.	Misc. Magic Lantern Pieces, 3 Bodies Mixed Parts	50.00
51.	Small EP Toy Lantern	75.00
52.	8/12 EP Toy Lantern Slides and Box	30.00
53.	(6) Boxes of Keystone magic Lantern Crayons	8.00 each
54.	Comicscope Cardboard Magic Lantern & Box	13.00
55.	WLP Patent Dissolving Carrier	40.00
56.	12 B&W Asian Slides	4.00
57.	12 B&W Asian Slides	4.00
58.	7 B&W African Slides	8.00
59.	4 B&W Australian Slides	3.00
60.	5 B&W Canadian Slides	1.00
61.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Beauty and the Beast"	30.00
62.	Hand-Drawn Zoetrope Strip, "Tip Top"	25.00
63.	Hand-Drawn Zoetrope Strip, "Rower"	10.00
64.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, Damaged, "Chickens"	12.00
65.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Tumbler"	12.00
66.	Hand-Drawn Zoetrope Strip, "Balls"	10.00
67.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Tip Top"	35.00
68.	Hand-Drawn Zoetrope Strip, "Hog"	17.00
69.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Donkey"	22.00
70.	Hand-Drawn Zoetrope Strip, "Bee"	15.00
71.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Pump"	12.00
72.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Jumping Dog"	17.00
73.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Head Off"	27.00
74.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Wrong Room"	23.00
75.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Jump Rope"	37.00
76.	Double-Sided Zoetrope Strip, "Juggler"	20.00
77.	Brass Darlot Projection Lens	35.00
78.	(3) Boxes of Eastern Kodak Lantern Slide Plates	9.00
79.	Wooden Slide, "Snowball Fight"	15.00
80.	(6) B&W Slides, "Cinderella"	Withdrawn
81.	(6) B&W Slides, "New Tale of a Tub"	50.00
82.	(8) Colored Slides, Beale, "Swanee River"	75.00
83.	(6) Color Slides, Beale, "Old Kentucky Home"	200.00
84.	(2) Slides, "Slaughter of the Innocent"	17.00



Larry Rakow auctioneer extraordinary

85.	Varitone Tinting Tablets for Lantern Slides	22.00
86.	Book, "Natural Philosophy, "Badly Damaged"	20.00
87.	Book, "Experimental Science, Vol. 2"	60.00
88.	Magazine, "The Movie"	35.00
89.	(7) Assorted Slide Carriers	25.00
90.	(12) WWI Slides Boxes	75.00
91.	(2) Metal Slide Boxes	35.00
92.	(56) B&W Slides of the Holy Land Plus Wooden Box	5.00
93.	(34) Misc. Color and B&W Slides Plus Box	17.00
94.	Double Slip Slide, "Blooming Flower"	205.00
95.	Double Slip Slide, "Dog House"	140.00
96.	Single Slip Slide, "Domestic Battle"	110.00
97.	Boxed Red Toy Lantern with Posters, tickets, and Slides	350.00
98.	Set of 12 EP Children's Slides	45.00
99.	Decal Slide of African Explorers	15.00
100.	(3) Magic Lantern Rubber Stamps, One or All	2.25 each
101.	(5) Early French Children's Slides, Copper Plate Slides	32.00
102.	(11) Children's Slides	32.00
103.	(6) B&W Slides, "Cinderella"	Withdrawn
104.	(6) Color Slides, Beale, "Old Kentucky Home"	130.00
105.	(4) B&W Slides, Beale, "How Persimmon Saved the Baby"	45.00
106.	(12) Color Slides, Beale, "How Jones Became a Mason"	250.00
107.	(3) B&W Slides, "Pillow Fight"	5.00
108.	(2) Slide Set, "Reading Disturbed"	20.00
109.	(1) Slide, "Louis Wain" Cats	10.00
110.	(1) Slide, "Waiting," Ethnic Humor	3.00
111.	(1) Slide, "Fire Pumper"	10.00
112.	(1) Slide, "Kaiser"	25.00
113.	(3) Locomotive Slides	5.00
114.	(1) Paper Transparency Slide, "Magic Lantern"	1.00
115.	(1) Church Interior Slide	3.00
116.	(2) Color Slides, "Butterfly" and "Japanese Study"	5.00
117.	Slide Box, Damaged	1.00
118.	Slide Box, Polished Wood	17.00

NEWER MEMBERS ATTENDING THEIR FIRST CONVENTION

BY ALICE KOCH

Barbara Zucker has been a member of the Magic Lantern Society for about six months. She is a consultant and works on the development of photo history used as visual instruction in museums and schools, mainly in St. Louis. She has been interested in photography since the 1970's. She lives in Carbondale, IL.

Ernie Gehr is from San Francisco. He is a teacher of pre-cinema at an art school. He has been teaching since 1968. He has a three month old son. Ernie is an avid collector.

Russell Serriane from Glens Falls, New York, fell into collecting after seeing Dick Balzer's exhibit in Lexington, MA. He collects slides and gives shows locally. He owns and designs for his own T-shirt company. He has designed a shirt for the Geo Eastman House. He has two children. He is a three year member.

A person whom we had not seen for many years was Floyd Hagedorn from Sherman, Texas. He is now retired. Good to see him. Last seen in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1984.



Larry Rakow and Debbie Borton entertain at the auction

FROM AMATEUR TO PROFESSIONAL STARTING THE AMERICAN MAGIC LANTERN THEATER

BY TERRY BORTON

For the first time in 75 or 100 years a professional magic lantern group is touring America. I don't mean that for the first time there is a good magic lantern group performing—the Society has several of those. I mean that for the first time a group is trying to feed itself with the receipts from its efforts. That—not quality—is the big difference between amateur and professional!

After 15 years working in corporate life and doing lantern shows on the side, I decided to see if it were possible to do something that many of us have speculated about—turn an avocation into a vocation.

Right now I think the answer is “yes.” But I can assure you, it's not easy. And definitely not certain.

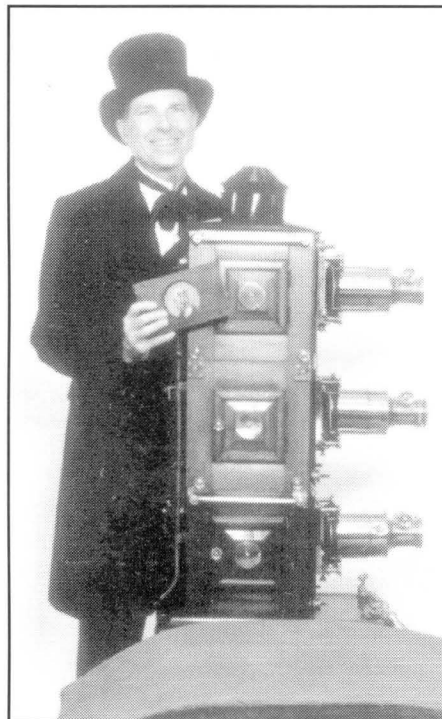
NEW STAFF TRAINED

The first big change was giving performances without my wife, Debbie. Like most couples that begin doing amateur shows together, we've had our problems. Over the years, however, we built ourselves into a very effective team. We both know just what we needed to do to pull off a show. But Debbie, who is a school principal (and for now the principal wage earner!) couldn't very well leave her school to go toddling around the country giving shows. That meant I had to find a new team.

The American Magic Lantern Theater opened last summer with “The Magic of the Sea” show at a hotel on Nantucket, a resort island off the Massachusetts coast. To replace Debbie I recruited and trained two islanders, Joan Michetti as lanternist, and Bob Lyman as Sea Chantyman. Both became very good, and we had a very successful run of

three nights a week, all summer long. I used the same people when we returned for our Halloween and Christmas shows later in the year, and the same procedure (though different people) when we took those shows to Martha's Vineyard, another island resort.

For off-island shows, Nancy Lauston-Stewart has been working with me on a regular basis. She plays



Terry Borton

the piano, accompanying herself with a spectacular soprano voice. I've rewritten scripts and changed physical technique so that I can operate the lantern with an assistant who only has to remove and store the slides, and so can be trained on the spot, avoiding the cost of housing a third person on the road.

SIX SHOWS NOW AVAILABLE

The second big change was to broaden our repertoire. Obviously we couldn't give our Christmas or Sea show in February. So we now offer seven different shows that cover the year. Developing these shows has kept the Borton house in an uproar of confusion, with slide boxes everywhere. Debbie certainly hasn't escaped magic lanterns yet!

All the shows contain a little history, some stories and dramatic poems, music and singing, lots of comedy, and audience participation. Here's the current roster:

- A Victorian Extravaganza*
- A Victorian Halloween*
- A Victorian Christmas*
- A Victorian Patriotic Celebration*
- A Victorian Valentine*
- A Victorian Tales of the Sea*

(You'll notice the “Victoria” tag on each show. That seems to help get across the idea of what the show is about, a key problem when going from amateur shows hosted by a school or historical society to professional shows that are advertised to the general public—which doesn't have any idea of what a magic lantern show is.)

MAKING IT A BUSINESS

The third big change from amateur shows to professional is handling all the business arrangements. Debbie and I used to get almost all our amateur bookings through word of mouth. Some group would call, guarantee an audience, and handle all the publicity. All we had to do was be ready with a show. But for professional performances, at least conducted through hotels, AMLT is in charge of everything—contracts, arrangements, security, publicity, auditions, programs, staffing—everything. It takes a lot of time. A lot of time.

The summer shows were successful enough so that I know we could draw an audience of the general public—even in competition with the best entertainment in the country. (Nantucket is a favorite spot for New York entertainers to get a little R&R during the summer, and every night features name acts somewhere on the island.)

With Nantucket experience in hand I went hunting an agent, and, after discussions with several, settled on Brian Eastman at The Talent Center in Cincinnati. (Call 1-800-878-ACTS!) Brian is a performer himself and his roster includes a number of unusual acts, so a magic lantern show doesn't seem too dangerous.

My arrangements with Brian were finalized relatively recently, so it's too early to give a definitive report on progress. He increased our asking price substantially, and began contacting small theaters and community arts centers—the first step up from performing in hotels. These places book a year in advance, so nothing happens immediately, but Brian seems pleased with the response so far. It looks as though he has the Christmas show booked for a one-two week tour through Southern Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana next year, and can then begin working on booking the other shows.

Meanwhile, I've just about completed arrangements for a weekend each of the Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's shows at a small historical theater near here. I'm hoping that over time I can build up this theater as a local base of operations and run each show there for a week a year. Time will tell.

And we'll return to the Islands next spring, summer, and fall, as well as do a number of shows locally, and a few scattered around the country.

HOW'S IT BEEN?

This new life has certainly fulfilled one of the expectations I had for it: I wanted a new career that was very different from my old. It is different. Very different.

It's also been exciting, lots of work, and generally lots of fun. I think I can make a living, maybe even a decent living. But that's not yet certain.

Because of that uncertainty and the need to jump-start my new profession, I'm afraid I've put off my responsibilities on the *Gazette* to concentrate on my meal ticket. This copy comes to you not through my efforts, but through those of our industrious friends in the Northwest. My thanks to them, and my apologies to all for not getting a *Gazette* to you much earlier.



THE DJINN IN SAN ANTONE

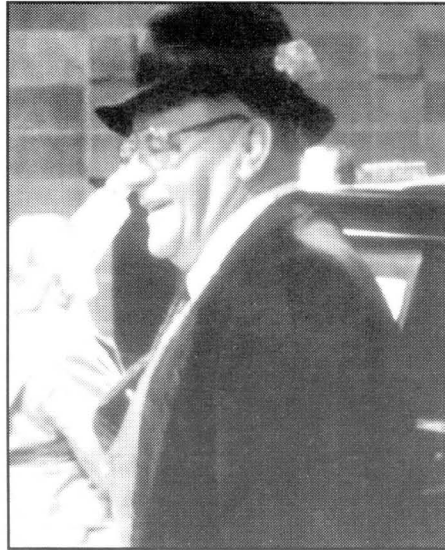
BY BOB BISHOP

The American convention held at the Magic Lantern Castle was a fine event and in many particulars was superior to some conventions held in other countries. I find it strange that most every Society member from the northwest corner were present in San Antonio. Thirteen or fourteen members. Most remarkable considering only one adult person was present from Europe and or England. Ernst Hrabalek and his son Christian from Vienna, Austria, were in the country and stopped off in San Antonio enroute to Hong Kong.

I am never surprised by the display of lanterns and slides by either Society during their respective conventions. However, I admit to some wonder for such a collection as mounted in the Magic Lantern Castle to be from but one person. (What was displayed and observed by convention delegates is but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Judson collection.)

As you well know, whenever a projector is lit, this Old Djinn is present, even though unseen. So I can state the lantern shows were well done and some new lanternists making their first public throw, namely the Halls from Gig Harbor. Then there was Bob Askren with his fine show of the *The Grasshopper Wedding* of 1874. His tale of a decade of search throughout this country in search of the last slide was most interesting.

Jack Judson brought back memories of the many different light sources which have summoned me over the decades since Kircher unwittingly melded me to the magic lantern. Candles, bowls of rape seed oil and olive oil, lamps that burned light oils, the Argand lamp, oxygen/hydrogen



Bob Bishop

blow through lanterns, coal oil lamps, gaslights, carbon arc battery powered lights, electric lights of all shapes and sizes and even sun powered reflecting sources. Finally lime light Judson showed the Society members many of these devices.

Larry Rakow with his deep resonant voice presented his Astonishingly Entertaining Professor Optix show without a hitch and Terry and Debbie Borton presented *The Magic of the Sea*. (In such a salty manner that some of us felt we were in Mystic, Connecticut, instead of San Antonio.) They were both wonderful programs. But no matter if he prefers not to speak completely of all the presentations, Joe Koch (say Cook) has assured me he has critiqued all the features on the printed programs.

Now, Old Man, you may entertain some notion that I have forgot your sophomoric, rambling talk at the convention. If you think for one moment your paper entitled *About Magic*, pleased me, you are much mistaken. This is the third convention you have attended and for you to think your loosely thought out and fleeting remarks concerning this Old Djinn's reality is sheer stupidity on your part. I am 'The True Magic of the Lantern' and as such, I need to be

acknowledged, not in some passing reference or with some play on words! You had best think on this matter before I withdraw my patronage from you. Incidentally, Old Man, while you were putting the audience to sleep with your reading of 'About Magic' this kindly Old Djinn was circulating about the Castle, putting the audience to sleep. Not so. Well, I did see Joe nodding off. In the foyer several members of the Society were standing about.

"What's the Old Projectionist speaking about?" inquired one fellow. "Oh, I don't know," came a reply. "Probably just his usual flim flam!"

Our friend, Tebra, in the Netherlands recently attended a most unusual combination ballet and magic lantern show produced in the Dutch town of Eindhoven. Now, Old Man, just in case you have some doubts about my true knowledge of this even, just remember some small lanterns were used to superimpose images on larger views. After all, the screen was 100'x200.' So, of course, seeing that lanterns were used, I was present.

The ballet was based on the epic story written by Homer and told of Odysseus and his tribulations while trying to return home to his wife, Penelope. Translated by Joseph Scoboda into a modern day spectacle, performed by the group *Laterna Magika*, it played in a new public building in Eindhoven with a seating capacity of some two thousand. Odysseus and his crew had to overcome many obstacles during the time it took them to return to friendlier lands. The dramatic events such as Odysseus withstanding the hypnotic lure of the beautiful Sirens with their lovely female upper bodies bellying their birdlike legs and feet. Of the blinding of Cyclops, very well done. A huge eye projected on the mammoth screen. Suddenly a spear appears imbedded in the iris of Cyclop's eye.



Sometimes I am puzzled by you Magic Lantern Society members. Do you join the Society for love of the lantern or as in the case of northwest corner members, for the enjoyment of the ever present potluck meals held at every regional meeting. Of course, in the more sophisticated national meetings of either Societies, wine and cheese seem to be the accepted order of things. But here in San Antonio, the Society banquet was much different. To begin with, there was no banquet hall, as such. Instead the convention banquet was held on two ornate barges which cruised the quiet flowing San Antonio River and its inlets in downtown San Antonio. Of course, I take my energy in a different manner than you humans but it was evident all of you were pleased with the menu. Well, not all! Ohs and ahs floated over each vessel as the refried beans and tortillas were washed down with copious quantities of Margaritas. Even you, Old Man, though you are not supposed to indulge in liquor or any sort, still managed, whenever your Better Half turned her back to finish off dinner with several of the frothy Margaritas. Old Man, what were you thinking of?

(Well, it was just the fellowship and the surroundings. Everyone was pleased to be present and most of us were surprised with the river dinner. The Eskimos have a little stone god for situations such as the Society banquet. The little native figurine is called a Billikin and it represents the 'god of things as they ought to be.' The Society banquet was a happy time. Phoebe and Jack Judson must receive credit for making an evening possible for all present which for may of us will be remembered as once in a lifetime experience.)

I must admit to admiration of the River Walk in the city of San Antonio. The beautiful little river wandering through the downtown district dotted with small vessels, filled with people, scooting about like oversize

waterbugs is truly a sight to see.

The river with stone walks on either bank, the shops and restaurants, the little stone bridges under which the colorful little barges pass, the kaleidoscope of people, is a gem of beauty. The immense trees on either bank shading the river and in turn being shaded by modern day sky scrapers of the city. This place in an even more magical manner, come again just before or after the winter solstice when the entire area, bridges, floats, walks and trees are bedecked with colorful holiday lights.

Fah! That old Fakir in Puskar is showing his single slide again and my old shipmate of the Canal Days is in Switzerland not far from Lucerne with a series of programs.

Well, there you are. Despite his professed intention to ignore our fine convention, I notice he mentioned most everyone but the Bergh sisters and their excellent program, The Song Slide Extravaganza. Direct from Minnesota they also gifted everyone with a printed parody of 'It's Only a Message From Home.' Boys re-entitled 'The Castle in San Antone.' Arranged, snug and recorded by Max Morath, well know for his programs using illustrated song slides. Well received and probably long remembered. Most likely none of us present will soon forget Dr. Barbara Fleischman Zucker telling us more than we ever surmised about slide activity in St. Louis from 1885 to 1935. An incredible amount of research and effort on her part.

In any respect, dear editor, accept the Djinn's words for what they are and I remain—The Old Projectionist.

1. The Magic Of The Lantern?

Vol. V. #2, June 1983, *The Magic Lantern Bulletin*.

2. *Parade Magazine*, Dec. 1, 1991.

3. *The Informational Djinn*, Vol. V11, #3/4 April 1, 1985, *The Magic Lantern Bulletin*.

4. Parody written by Margaret Bergh. Arranged and recorded by Max Morath.



EDITORIAL COMMENT ON BOB BISHOP'S MISSIVE

1. Bob's story was severely edited down about half. There are those that say more editing was needed. In the interest of space this was necessary.

2. Bob used to peddle lamp oil to his audience, me-thinks he should have handled snake oil as well!

NEW MEMBERS

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continued page 18



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England

REINSTATED MEMBER

John V. Hodin
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Newton Lower Falls, MA 02162

NAME CHANGE

Donald A. Buscombe (Not
Boscombe)



"Sciopticons, Stereopticons, Magic Lanterns and Views, Mechanical Novelties, Etc."

SUBMITTED BY RALPH SHAPE

The following is taken from an illustrated catalogue titled "Sciopticons, Stereopticons, Magic Lanterns and Views, Mechanical Novelties, Etc." distributed July 1, 1885, by the company "L. Manasse, Optician" of 88 Madison Street, Chicago.

Mr. Manasse claims that his Emporium will do away with the idea "of sending on East for anything in this branch of business. We are prepared to meet the lowest New York or Philadelphia prices, and beg to assure all persons interested in our branch of business that we carry the most elegant and complete stock of every description."

Introductory: The perfected Magic Lantern or Stereopticon is, in the principle of its construction, identical with the Magic Lantern of our childhood; but so improved and elaborated, as to be adapted to the production of the most beautiful effects of light and shade, form and color. By its aid the most delicately painted pictures of the artist can be projected upon the canvas, in all its original glow of beauty, with often the added effect of reality of life and motion. Besides, the most fairy-like transformations can be produced, so that the beholder may easily imagine himself in the palace of the enchanter.

The instrument administers not only to the pleasures of the eye and the imagination; but is a valuable adjunct in popularizing science, and increasing our knowledge of the world. In the education of youth, the value of pictorial illustrations is accepted as the most efficient mode of fixing ideas in the mind, particularly when attained by the medium of the Magic Lantern, as, all surrounding objects being excluded, the attention of the student can be concentrated on the one point illustrated by the picture on the screen. The large assortment of views now attainable will enable a skillful instructor to illustrate before a class many subjects which have heretofore been impossible to explain, except orally; and thus, to convey many lessons of vital importance in a most forcible manner, while the fascinating character of the exhibition will give a charm to what would otherwise be considered a 'dry lecture.' The value of the Magic Lantern for the above purposes is acknowledged by all who have tested it. A gentleman at the head of one of the largest institutions in the country, in which a Stereopticon of our make is constantly used, writes thus: "After the Stereopticon, the Blackboard seems almost good for nothing. I wonder how we have managed so long without it."

The Magic Lantern has proved very serviceable in institutions for the treatment of the insane, as, by its means, the patients are amused and interested, and their minds turned into new channels of thought. Dr. Kirkbridge, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, says: "No institution can well afford to be without a Lantern and good assortment of slides."

Masonic and other lodges, and various secret societies have adopted it, as the most efficient, attractive and economical means of illustrating their rituals.

As a parlor entertainment for the amusement of private families nothing excels the Magic Lantern. "Who does not recall the mute wonder and delight with which, in company with other juveniles, he witnesses for the first time the mysteries of the Magic Lantern?"

Advertising Stereopticons have proved very popular and lucrative when properly managed. Business cards of the advertisers, prepared as Magic Lantern Slides, being thrown upon the canvas, highly magnified and brilliantly illuminated, interspersed with local views, artistic and comic pictures, cannot fail to attract the gaze of the crowds nightly promenading the streets of any city.

There is no form of popular entertainment that pays so well on the amount invested, and the running expenses of which are as slight. A good Magic Lantern or Stereopticon Exhibition is always attractive to all classes of the community. In every locality there is an opening for a man to do an excellent business with a Magic Lantern. There is no difficulty in learning the working of the apparatus; any one of ordinary intelligence, by following the printed directions in this catalogue cannot fail to produce the desired results. No heavy labor is demanded, so that persons in delicate health have often succeeded in carrying on the business satisfactorily. Profit remunerative, as from \$10.00 to \$50.00 per night is often received by those who use proper means to bring the entertainment before the public.



L. Manasse, Optician, Chicago, IL

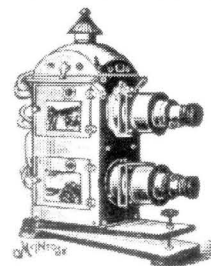
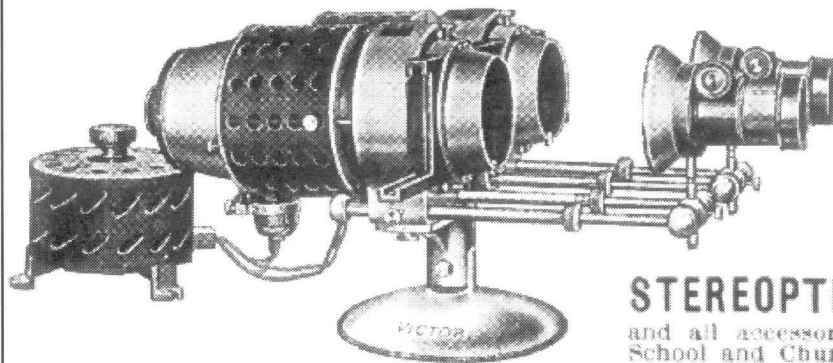
WANT ADS

Want slides on Switzerland and the State of Washington, U.S.A. Call or write Joe Koch, 2902 28th St. SE, Auburn, WA 98002-70-1. Phone (206) 833-7784.

Want movie coming attraction slides, the older the better. I pay top dollar for key movies. Ronald Krueger, Box 741, Oak Park, IL 60303. Phone (708) 788-8235.

Want coming attraction and song slides plus other movie advertising. Dwight Cleveland, P.O. Box 10922, Chicago, IL 60610-0922. Phone (312) 266-9152.

Wanted all or any lantern slides produced by the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. Richard Kennedy, 1017 South 251st Street, Des Moines, WA 98198-8548



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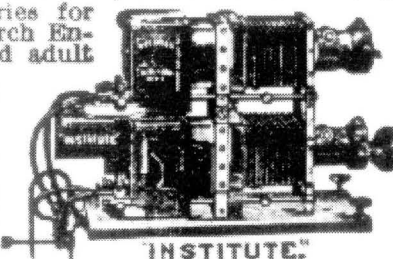
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The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 1992

Balance — January 1, 1992 **\$2,646.37**

Income

Dues	\$2,307.94
1992 Convention Income	1,103.78
Bank Interest	80.14
Returned Check	3.00

Total Income **\$3,494.86**

Expenses

Publishing Expenses	\$1,366.38
1992 Convention Expenses	914.95
Postage	111.64
Bank Service Charge	46.62
Office Supplies	4.50

Total Expenses **\$2,444.09**

Balance — January 1, 1993 **\$3,697.14**

Robert Hall
Secretary/Treasurer